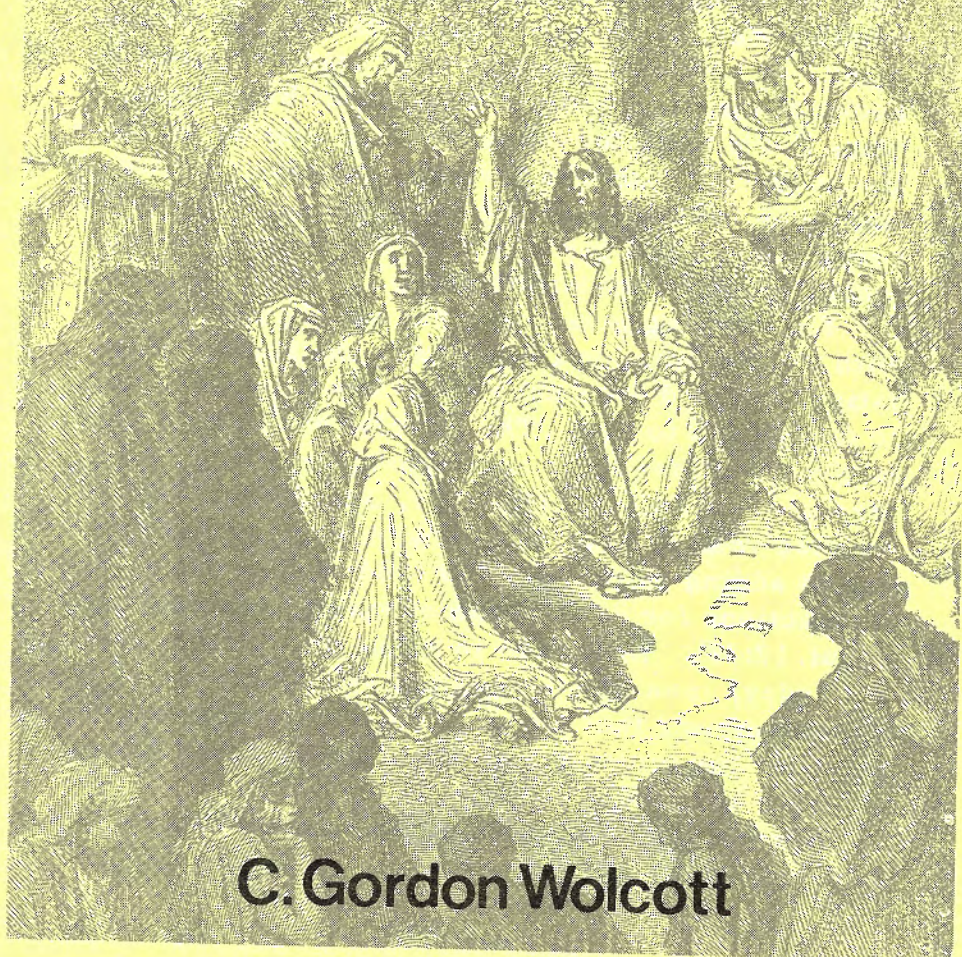


NEW TRUTH A Vital Christian Need



C. Gordon Wolcott

NEW TRUTH A VITAL CHRISTIAN NEED

"If anyone takes away from the statements of the book of this prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the city of holiness which are described in this book. If anyone embellishes the statements of the prophecy in this book, God will lay upon him the plagues which are described in this book." Thus reads the concluding portion of the Revelation to and from Jesus Christ (Rev. 22:19,18,1:1). Yet there are Church leaders without number who will never or hardly ever touch upon the meat of God's Word contained in this prophecy. They shun it, though it is written especially for this generation (Rev. 22:10-14). And there are the others, many, so bold as to employ teachings contained in books of man's invention to interpret Revelation. Thus God's truth for today is being subtracted from the minds of those who would be or think they would like to be followers of Christ. Thus is God's truth being altered and perverted by man's ignoring and embellishing in wishful thinking.

The warning given here has specifically to do with the information contained in the book of Revelation, but God does not change His ideas from day to day or age to age. The Revelation to Jesus Christ is clearly stated to be an extension of God's Word through Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1, Jhn. 14:6). And so we also read in Deut. 12:32 and 4:2 the warnings against adding or taking away from the loving Father's instructions for good health of spirit, soul and body (Deut. 12:28). However, in all of past history through our today, man has thought himself as clever as God in determining that which is more enjoyable and more right for the moment than the truth declared by the all-wise and loving Father.

Adam and Eve took materialistically oriented knowledge into their experience, excluding God's

plan, and brought upon themselves an interruption of life (Gen. 3:6, 2:17). Hezekiah invited the agents of Merodach-baladen (the lord who rules) from Babylon (confusion) into his nation's treasury and motivated the devastation of Jerusalem and the nation (Isa. 39:2, 6-7). Again and again, we see the actual lord who has ruled mankind, since Adam, has been Lucifer and death (2Tim. 1:10, 1Cor. 15:45, 26, Jhn. 14:6). Even the people God chose to learn His truths into Life and then teach them to others, concentrated on what they saw as the Lord's promise of autonomous political rule and led themselves into destruction of both their land and nation in 70 A.D. - the result of knowingly rejecting God in human flesh or majoring in the worldly (Matt. 21:38-39, 43-45, 23:34-39).

Christendom has done the same - read Church history. Christendom today rejects the wholeness of God's Word, making it read something not intended (rejection of Christ, the Word). Therefore, the house of Christendom is also being forsaken today, at the time of His second coming, as prophetically foretold (Rev. 19:10). The early Christian Church substituted ecclesiastical authority for the rightful authority of the heavenly Father, bringing on many wars and the "dark ages". Even today, mankind has not yet emerged, insofar as illuminating spiritual truth is concerned.

In the time of Christ's second coming, it is written that only a very few will experience full preservation. Many will try to enter that narrow gate, but will not be able, because the door will be closed to all whom the Lord has not experientially seen already conforming to His plan for total preservation. Our Lord foresaw the woman, who is the Church, preparing three categories (loaves) of Christians, but all of them are fermented or infected with leaven (Lk. 13:21, 23-25, Matt. 25:11-12). Paul writes of the last

days being distinguished by the many evils we now see all around us, even in Christian circles. He said the Church would be characterized by a form of piety, but without the power which the heavenly Father said should be part and parcel of true piety (2Tim. 3:1, 5, Ex. 15:26, Jer. 7:23, Jhn. 15:7). Jesus Christ reported to John that the end-time Church will still be improvising for show, instead of actually turning to the wholeness of God's Word, Jesus Christ (Rev. 2:4-5, 3:2, 15-17).

But having seen what is written for our instruction today, it does no good at all to lay these deficiencies on the doorstep of any other or all denominations, or other independent church assemblies, or on the one or many persons who do not accept everything in which we believe. In times past, there were many, by today's standards, who we would say were very religious, right living, honorable and sincere people. Likewise today, there are many who Christians would have to say live unselfish, good and honorable lives - some non-professing Christians living more kindly lives than many professing Christians. But always and in every level of man's development toward maturity, we are told it is not that which is right and good in man's eyes which is actually so. Only that which is right in the Lord's sight is truly profitable. Man himself has proven that children left-to their own sense of right and wrong hardly become assets to themselves or others. Children without wise heads over them and firm guidance into whole truth tend to remain in childish foolishness. Children trained by improperly trained children are not much better. Where there is no Ruler, there is little to no maturing (Ju. 21:25, Deut. 12:8, 13:17-18, Prov. 12:15, Isa. 5:21).

Woe to those who, in their immaturity, call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, and who put bitter for sweet and

sweet for bitter, even inadvertently. They can bring incalculable harm down on others (Isa. 5:20). They become responsible for presenting our Keeper as an ogre, instead of the loving Father of all. Woe to those who in their leader-conditioned apathy maintain that their religious position and spiritual attainment and Bible-reading posture and their having been "saved by Grace" are enough (Isa. 5:21). "Saved by Grace" should be a truth for but one split moment in a person's life. If thereafter, he rests on that attainment, he is in the quicksand of serious error and on a crutch into evil. If he will not, from then on, seek to learn from the Father how to become whole and wholly free from error and evil and from death itself, he is in that measure rejecting the Father's plan and rejecting Jesus Christ (Rev. 3:16-17). It is only the whole who have no further need for the Physician. That wholeness must necessarily include the total preservation of the physical body as well as the soul garment. That truth must apply to the earth planet environment, here and now, or Jesus Christ failed in His mission and reason for incarnating (1Cor. 15:26, Rev. 3:20, Jhn. 6:58). Show us then, if you can, the church assembly fully following Christ.

So what is to be our response? Are we to be nice guys and make the best of what the people want and are willing to listen to Sunday after Sunday? Are we to allow children in immaturity to set the standard so they will like us and stick with us? And should we then build further upon what man has built and will protect, until death? Or should we inject that which the loving Father Himself has said, and which He backs up with life for the whole being of man, spirit, soul and body, over a period of as many thousands of years as are necessary to learn to walk with God and be taken, as was Enoch and Elijah?

Man's ecclesiastical structure, even in the so-called non-denominations has one answer. The whole-

ness of the Word of God has had a different answer continuously. If all that Jesus spoke is also prophecy and if God does not change (Rev. 19:10, Mal. 3:6) and if we accept that it was the God Spirit incarnate in the physical Jesus of Nazareth (Jhn. 1:14, Isa. 7:14), then all He spoke through the prophets in ancient times, as well as all He spoke during His Palestinian ministry, also must specifically apply to this age and to this generation (Lk. 24:25, Acts 3:20-21). So spoke Paul repeatedly (1Cor. 10:11). Man has been saying, speak to us on things we already have accepted and find comfortable. Don't rock the boat. (Which means, put Jesus to sleep in the back of the boat so He won't rock it - another prophecy fulfilling - 2Tim. 4:3-4, Isa. 30:8-11). God says, cry out, spare not, blow the trumpet on all of them. The preparation for the Lord having His way is by deeds of repentance. It is written to the Church, awake, O sleeper, arise from your deadness (Rev. 3:1). Only then will Christ radiate upon you and give you light. Let those who insist on remaining dead bury their dead. You publish that which is the rule of God (Eph. 5:14-17, Lk. 9:60).

The first Church, the Jews, rejected the main purpose of God incarnating. They accepted the soul preserving phase of God's work, which had been continuously effective since the Law was given through Moses, right into the ministry of Jesus Christ. They did not question that and Jesus certainly did not come to reinstate something already in operation. They demanded of Jesus, if He was truly the Messiah (and they knew He was), that He set up a political Kingdom in Jerusalem so Rome could be toppled and the Jews could become top dog. They rejected His insistence that the Kingdom rules be first established within the individual, producing human mastery over every emotion, and thought and physical act in violation of His plan for man's well-being (Gen. 1:28). No

one is ready to rule over another, before having gained rule over self.

Christendom has followed suit, accepting soul preservation through the blood of the Lamb and perhaps dabbling in some phases of the first Pentecost, but going almost no further. Speaking of the physical death of Lazarus, Jesus said, "Whoever believes into Me shall never die at all. Do you believe this?" Martha did not. Neither does today's Church. Speaking to the Jews and their religious leaders of physical death, Jesus said any one observing all of this teaching will not die for the eon. That eon had a 2000 year span of time into our day, (1Cor. 10:11), 1000 years being as one day to our Lord (Hos. 5:15-6:2). They understood He was speaking of the preserving of the physical body and He made no attempt to change their understanding (Jhn. 8:51-53). Both the Jewish and the Christian Church have rejected the whole preservation Jesus Christ worked out for all men. Therefore, because they rejected Him, necessarily He will have to reject them - until there is repentance. The ministers bear prime responsibility, but the people who follow their errors inherit the same end (Hos. 4:4-9).

Today again, I cry out to whomever wishes to hear and see. Let him who has a single ear for truth alone, let him give heed to what the Spirit says to the assemblies. To him who overcomes the deficiencies in the traditional Christian life, to him will be given permission to eat the fruit of the tree of life and see his physical being become the garden of God - even as planned from the beginning (Rev. 2:7). Today I set before you again the choice of living life or of living in the dying process to its end. Read Ezekiel 33, all of it. Listen to the voice of the watchman on the wall, the wall which protects from the invader, death. As I live, says the Lord, I have no pleasure in the death of him who dies, but rather that he turn

from his death-prone way and live (Ro. 6:23). Turn back, turn back from your destroying ways, for why will you die, O house of those who would rule with God (Ezek. 33:11)? As surely as I live, says the Lord, those who live in the places of waste (waste of truth and life) shall become desolated (Ezek. 33:27-28). Here is the truth of the light placed high on the hill instead of "under the bushel" (Lk. 11:33-36).

Too many say to one another, come and let us go to hear what word comes forth from the Lord today. And they come and sit under the Word as His people. The words are heard, but they are not put into action. With the mouth much love is shown, but the heart is set on what seems to be the near-term ease for self. My Word is as a very lovely song of one who has a pleasant voice and can play well, because My words are heard. But too few there are who will do them. However, when desolation comes to pass, for it will surely come, then they who have heard the words shall realize that a prophet has been among them (Ezek. 33:30-33).

To whom should we listen to be certain of receiving unfractured truth. Are we willing to accept the Lord's verdict that those who instruct in the seminaries don't have it and those who are trained by them don't have it and those who have followed the ministers and priests thus trained don't have it? Not unmindful of the precarious situation occupied by each one sincerely wishing to do the Father's will exclusively, our Lord set forth a Standard with which to compare the offerings. The effective use of the Standard, however, does require considerable more familiarity with both the Old and New Testament Word of God than by far most men possess. And of course those few who have cultivated familiarity are the only ones with whom the Lord can really continuously work at a profit. He has never been one to waste His time and effort in fruitless work.

To the crowd gathered to hear Him, He reported that every teacher of the Sacred Scriptures, that is, every one so commissioned by God, is one who has been disciplined into the Kingdom of Heaven. He it is who brings forth out of the Lord's storehouse treasure which is new, without neglecting the old and familiar (Matt. 13:52). The storehouse here is the wholeness of the Old Testament Word of God and the New Testament testimony of Jesus Christ. The words of our Lord to the crowd at the seashore were a re-statement of the Standard reported through Isaiah. He said in effect, when a people advise going to psychics or psychiatrists for help in getting out of trouble, suggest to them that they seek counsel from their Keeper - God, rather than consulting the dead on behalf of the living. Direct those willing to be helped to the Law (the Old Testament Pentateuch and the Prophets and Psalms) and to the Testimony (the New Testament teachings of Jesus Christ in word and in act) (Isa. 8:19-20). If what the teacher presents is consistently at odds with the statements of the Lord and the patterns in drama contained in the Old Testament and neither is in conformance to the teachings and patterns presented by Jesus Christ Himself in the New Testament, that man is not chosen by God to represent Him and His Truth. Jesus added more words to relay the same thought. Anyone, not believing Moses' writings with understanding of their application in the contemporary scene, has no way to arrive at a full understanding and proper application of Jesus' teachings in the New Testament (Jhn. 5:47).

Where do you stand in your evaluation of the teachings you receive from men you respect? Is it that you judge according to what seems right in your own eyes? Most sincere Christians do, knowing no better. If so, you too as yet have no King over you (Ju. 21:25). As King, the Lord requires the acceptance of only that which is right in His sight. I ask

any repentant arrival among us to think back over the past month, the past year, or, if necessary, the past 5 or 10 years. Assuming your then assembly has been established a month, a year, or perhaps 10 years, when was the most recent occasion of their members being offered new truth which had not been partly or fully seen before and which could be validated in the Bible with but a little effort? Also, if you have been given new truths since withdrawing from traditional doctrine, consider whether you have kept up to date in integrating them into your living pattern. Unless there is that consistent attempt, they must again be presented still as new truths for you.

Are you aware that your leadership is continually building within your assembly with new truths to be learned and practiced? Any leader who does not or cannot because of lack of knowledge or lack of courage, is no priest of God for you. Those who follow him certainly can go no further than he goes. Man is wise enough in his own schools and colleges to insist that the students (the disciples) continuously approach and learn and practice new truths which they had not known before. Is our loving Heavenly Father less wise? But during almost 1900 years, Christians have been taught not to think for themselves in the field of religion. In business or the arts or the sciences or in politics, men are trained to evaluate and separate what seems best from the inadequate. Not so in religion. The most stupid of reasonings are expected to be swallowed by the masses. For centuries, the Mother Church has successfully sold the idea that time in purgatory could be bought off by living relatives and friends. Protestants have been no less gullible. There is prevalent teaching that, because Jesus overcame all obstacles for all men, all Christians are now overcomers, before even lifting a finger. Some of today's best selling books are reputed to set forth God's plan for the end of the

world, but they are fiction and not God's truth. These schemes from the pit succeed for one reason. How many are there who know enough of the wholeness of God's Word to even begin to make a rigorous comparative analysis. The churches have concentrated mostly on a few of the statements from Paul's letters, ignoring others and twisting even the ones used to give a meaning supporting a human conclusion previously reached. Then this is picked up by the communicant as gospel truth. How many teach the truth of the parables reaching far deeper than the surface story? And how many care very much about even the story? How many detail the prophecy in all the words of Yahweh-Jesus? How many have the courage to rock the boat by declaring false most of the "truth" implications taught by the Church over centuries and today? How many will have the nerve to blow their trumpets loud enough to shock sleeping Christians out of bed and into reasonable effort towards graduation from this school room planet - even to those already possessing initial "salvation"? (Phil. 2:12, 3:12-15, 17).

How many staunch Christians could possibly miss realizing that they are being re-exposed to the same substance of teaching year-in, year-out? The repeats are even being scheduled for them a year or more in advance in many churches. Of course, it makes for polished sermons and for easy listening, but also for easy forgetting. And the people love to have it so. Many there are who seek out that kind of preaching. It places no new responsibilities on the listeners (2Tim. 4:3-4). Even many of the pastors and priests tire of having nothing else to teach but the repetition and re-emphasis of the same elementary introductions to Christian living which people have been hearing for years and decades. Yet many still keep their jobs for the pay, in spite of the frustrations of lack of progress into more glorious truth.

Again it is becoming clear to thinkers that the

theologians and those trained by them in the seminaries and Bible Schools have taken away the Key of experiential understanding, refusing to enter in themselves and actively keeping back those who would enter upon the threshold of Truth as seen in the eyes of the Father (Lk. 11:52). We see this prophecy spoken by Jesus reaching the nadir of its fulfillment. They have hidden the life preserving truths and have left their followers with only the strained baby food bereft of its most important body builders. And even the baby truths have been doctored, says our Lord. He questioned whether today even He will be able to find the faith He taught anywhere on earth, as His return draws near (Lk. 18:7-9). That becomes an emphatic and matching prophecy aligned with the call for the Church to repent, to return to the first love (those who love Me keep My instructions), to become separate from the teacher who claims to speak God's Word, but is unwed in total faithfulness to Christ (Jezebel), to recognize its deadness and wake up, to move from the little power into complete overcoming, and to agree to use every resource to purchase spiritual treasures, and clean white garments (soul and body) and eye salve to cure blindness (Rev. 2:5, 20, 23, 3:1-2, 8, 12, 18-19).

What is the cost of being denied or not taking on new truths, remaining with only that which has become familiar and comfortable? Look to the dramas acted out for our instruction today (1Cor. 10:11). After the Israelite's initial approach to the Lord and deliverance from Egypt (hemmed in) and the rule of Pharaoh (the Great House-of Satan), the believers were led through a typical period of testing so the Lord could have experiential knowledge of whether they would follow His life preserving plan or not. In the process, the believers were to come to understand that man would gain full possession of life only by the living out of the wholeness of the Word of God

(Deut. 8:2-3). As long as they marched forward, as long as they progressed, the opportunity to advance in understanding continued. But when they had persisted in deviations from the plan, there came a time of refusal to permit graduation into the Land of Promise. It is the same in pattern today (Heb. 3:7-14). Unbelief of new Truth and refusal to build experience in new Truth shuts one out of the transition to higher education (Heb. 3:19). Jesus repeatedly made this point. No one who puts his hand to the plow, turning over and preparing the field of his own being and then looks back to repeat the problems overcome, or even to stop plowing, is fit for the Kingdom rule of God (Lk. 9:62). No one lacking in the disciplining of self into the wholeness of God's Plan for man will tie down his calling and election into the Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2Pet. 1:5-11). Did not our Christ warn that not every one who calls Him Lord and prophesies in His name and drives out demons in His name and does many worthy works in His name will enter the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 7: 21-23)? Therefore, important as the external works might be, it is the fruit of righteousness developed in the heart upon which the Lord first looks (Jer. 17: 10).

Are you or your siblings in the Lord satisfied that your style of living meets your loving Father's minimum requirements for advancement to the next higher level of experience? What additional truths do you or they need to see worked in? Are you or your brothers and sisters confident that you have seen and understood and practiced at least that number of truths which will allow Him to elect you to the high and Holy and heavenly calling? If your answer is yes, does your experience approach the level of Paul's, just before the close of his ministry as Apostle to the whole Gentile world? He was not sure, until just before his martyrdom (Phil. 3:12-14).

If you think you have no urgent need of new truth, Paul's advice might be sound for you. Let any one who thinks he stands take heed, lest he fall (1Cor. 10:12). Certainly the Lord's warning is noteworthy for all. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight (Isa. 5:21). Will you not be stirred up then to constantly require of yourself that you learn the brand new truths from your teachers and from your study, which Christendom has never yet seen - without neglecting to discipline yourself in those more elementary truths which are also a vital part of God's plan for man? Will you not love your brother enough to urge him to do likewise? Will you not fast much and pray much that your petitions would be answered and you become more of a disciple of Jesus Christ than ever before (Lk. 5:35)?

Inadequate learning limits one to inadequate progress. Inadequate progress rules out participation in graduation into the Land of Promise. New truth from God Himself, worked into the heart, is the vital need of every one of today's Christians (Phil. 2:12, Jer. 48:8, 10). Without a minimum of such advancement, it is exceedingly doubtful that today's Christian will be able to physically survive the period of tremendous pressure which is now well started to inundate all peoples and nations and cities and homes (Lk. 21:34-35). Do not blandly assume that as being an overstating of the dangers. It is very much an understatement.

Because of the serious nature of man's and Christendom's predicament, our Keeper, as the Great Placer, has seen to it that there will be the "one tenth" which will emerge and from which the Church will be rebuilt in the righteousness of God's full Truth. Those of the one tenth will emerge, but each one of that number will do so by the exercise of his own initiative in a desperate search for and practice of whole Truth,

believing into Jesus, loving Him (I am the Truth). Will you do everything you can to be among that number so that perchance He might look upon you and find you worthy? Or if not for yourselves alone, will you not so prepare to help another to that level?

May our Father so deal with you that you will earnestly seek to become a mouthpiece for Truth. Set your goal unalterably to become at least a miner prophet - one who digs for gold!

C. Gordon Wolcott

During the first months of new group expression in freedom in teaching, discussion and songs of praise, there is an engaging balance of emotional and intellectual attraction. Usually the emotional is by far the strongest, but that is right for the initial period. Of course, enthusiasm built on emotion alone, or largely so, cannot maintain itself. Sooner or later, new stimulus is required.

Without new stimulus, a let-down is sure - as experienced by many charasmatics. Then the search is on for "the next thing in God's plan". Some settle for authoritarian "Discipleship", each one coming un- and life loses a bit of its luster. A few then yearn to peated opportunities for seeing the joy and peace in applying new Bible truths. These begin to see the advantage in discovering new truths. But with more new truth under the belt than others possess, many will coast. The first love is lost. Zeal diminishes and life loses a bit of its luster. A few then yearn to recreate the earlier setting by de-emphasizing intellectual and practical development, not realizing that balance is the vital need.

God's view of balance is what matters (Isa. 8:20). The Lord's first appeal was to emotions - turning water to wine, feeding the multitudes, etc. After that, teaching of new truth dominated. That is the thrust here, but keeping in mind the importance of right balance!